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EXAMINER

RIVAS, SALVADOR E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2619

MAIL DATE

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/754,937	<b>Applicant(s)</b> TAKECHI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> SALVADOR E. RIVAS	<b>Art Unit</b> 2619	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 5-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 5-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 July 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/9/2008 and 3/4/2008</u> .                                   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This Action is in response to Applicant's amendments filed on March 3, 2008.

**Claims 1, 3, 5-9** are now pending in the present application. **This Action is made FINAL.**

### *Drawings*

2. The drawings were received on July 30, 2007. These drawings are accepted.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

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1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

**Claims 1, 3, and 5-9** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Hamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent # 6,038,233)** in view of **Asano et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0185236 A1)**.

Regarding **claim 1**, Hamamoto et al. teach an address translation device (read as Ipv6/Ipv4 translator (Fig.1 @ 55), Column 6 Line 5-6) comprising:

an extraction unit (read as an header translation unit (Fig.2 @ 33)) extracting, from data received via a first network (read as IPv6 Network (Fig.1 @ 52)), a fixed identifier indicating a transmission source of the data ("The header translation unit 33, upon receiving the packet, extracts the IPv6 address, which is the source IP address, included in the packet, and searches for an IPv4 address which has previously corresponded to the extracted IPv6 address ...", Column 8 Lines 3-7);

a storage unit (read as an address translation information table (Fig. 2 @ 35)) storing the fixed identifier and an address (Fig.2 @ 35 is used to store "... address translation information", Column 6, Line 25), in a second network (read as IPv4 Network (Fig.1 @ 54)), of the transmission source indicated by relating the fixed identifier (read as a home address) and the address to each other ("the address translation processing unit 43 assigns a certain IPv4 address to the aforementioned IPv6 address.", Fig.8, Column 10 Lines 39-41);

a reading unit (read as IPv4/v6 reception processing unit (Fig.2 @ 31)) reading the address, in the second network, stored on the storage unit (Fig.2 @ 35) and related to the fixed identifier (read as a home address) and extracted by the extraction unit ("a header translation unit 33 for translating the header of a packet fetched by the IPv4/v6 reception processing unit 31 based on address translation information stored in an address translation information table 35 and for updating the contents of the address translation information table 35 as required", Column 6 Lines 22-27);

a replacing unit (read as an address translation information exchange unit (Fig.2 @ 34)) replacing a source address of the data with the address in the second network read by the reading unit (Fig.2 @ 34 "for exchanging the address translation information stored in the address translation information table 35 with address translation information stored in a particular node connected to the IPv4 network 54.", Column 6 Lines 30-34).

However, Hamamoto et al. fails to teach an identifier extraction unit extracting a variable address of a terminal device connected to the first network and the fixed identifier, from the data received via the first network;

an identifier storage unit storing the variable address and the fixed identifier extracted by the identifier extraction unit by relating the variable address and the fixed identifier;

a variable address acquisition unit acquiring, from the storage unit and the identifier storage unit, the variable address corresponding to a destination address of

the data addressed to the terminal device, which contains, as a destination address, the address in the second network received via the second network and

an adding unit adding the variable address acquired by the variable address acquisition unit, as the destination address of the received data, and wherein the received data, which had the variable address added by the adding unit, contains the fixed identifier related with the variable address stored by the identifier storage unit.

Asano et al. illustrates a case wherein the identifier receiving unit (read as home agent (Fig.2 @ 20)) receiving data containing a variable address (read as a care-of address) of an IPv6 terminal device and the fixed identifier (read as home address) indicating the IPv6 terminal device ("Mobile IPv6 ... has two IP addresses as shown in FIG. 2: home address and care-of address.", paragraph [0008], Lines 1-3 and [0015]);

an identifier storage unit (read as a home agent) storing the care-of address and the fixed identifier (read as a home address) that have been received by the identifier receiving unit by relating to the care-of address and the fixed identifier (read as a home address) each other (the home agent incorporates a "storage section to memorize an address management table, which defines the relationship between the home address and care-of address.", [0008] Lines 6-8);

a variable address acquisition unit (read as home agent (Fig.2 @ 20)) acquiring, from the storage unit and the identifier storage unit, the variable address(read as a care-of address) corresponding to a destination address of the data addressed to the terminal device, which contains, as a destination address, the address in the second network received via the second network. ("If the Mobile IPv6 terminal 10 moves

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subsequently (S50), the home agent registers the invariable home address 22 and a new care-of address 23, which results from a move, in the address management table, and sends an acknowledgment packet back to the Mobile IPv6 terminal 10(S70)", paragraph [0013] Lines 11-14)

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the home agent of Asano et al. in with the translator of Hamamoto et al. for the purpose of coupling two distinct networks having different addressing architectures. The motivation being to efficiently exchange a data communication path and couple an IPv4 terminal to intercommunicate to a Mobile IPv6 terminal and vice versa.

However, Hamamoto et al. and Asano et al. does not explicitly teach an adding unit adding the variable address acquired by the variable address acquisition unit, as the destination address of the received data, and wherein the received data, which had the variable address added by the adding unit, contains the fixed identifier related with the variable address stored by the identifier storage unit. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the functionality of an adding unit (taught by Asano et al.'s home agent (Fig. 2@ 20) in with the translation device ((Fig.1 @ 55) as taught by Hamamoto et al.) for the purpose of coupling two distinct networks having different addressing architectures. Lacking any criticality, to make prior art parts integral does not make the claimed invention patentable over the prior art. MPEP § 2144(V)(B) (Citing to *In re Larson*, 340 F.2d 965, 968, 144 USPQ 347, 349 (CCPA 1965)).

Regarding **claim 3**, Hamamoto et al. teach a packet translation device (Fig.1 @ 55), interposed between an IPv6 (Internet Protocol version 6) network and an IPv4 (Internet Protocol version 4) network, for mutually translating an IPv4 packet and an IPv6 packet (inherently taught by Ipv6/Ipv4 translator (Fig.1 @ 55) and Column 6 Lines 5-6), comprising:

an extraction unit extracting, from the IPv6 packet, a fixed identifier indicating a transmission source of the IPv6 packet ("The header translation unit 33, upon receiving the packet, extracts the IPv6 address, which is the source IP address, included in the packet, and searches for an IPv4 address which has previously corresponded to the extracted IPv6 address ...", Column 8 Lines 3-7);

a storage unit (read as an address translation information table (Fig. 2 @ 35)) storing the fixed identifier and an IPv4 address assigned to the transmission source by relating the fixed identifier and an IPv4 address each other (Fig.2 @ 35 is used to store "... address translation information", Column 6, Line 25);

a reading unit (read as IPv4/v6 reception processing unit (Fig.2 @ 31)) reading the IPv4 address stored on the storage unit (read as an address translation information table (Fig. 2 @ 35)) and related to the fixed identifier extracted by the extraction unit (Fig.2 @ 35 is used to store "... address translation information", Column 6, Line 25); and

a packet translating unit (Fig.2 @ 33) translating the IPv6 packet into the IPv4 packet with the IPv4 address read by the reading unit being set as a source address ("a header translation unit 33 for translating the header of a packet fetched by the IPv4/v6



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reception processing unit 31 based on address translation information stored in an address translation information table 35 and for updating the contents of the address translation information table 35 as required”, Column 6 Lines 22-27);

wherein the packet translating unit (read as translator (Fig.1 @ 55)) translates the IPv4 packet into an IPv6 packet (“the header translation unit 33 sets an IPv4-mapped-IPv6 address “::ffff:133.144.95.22” of the IPv4 host 53 as the source IP address and the previously extracted IPv6 address “::1234:5678:9abc” as the destination IP address in the packet.”, Column 11 Lines 31-35).

However, Hamamoto et al. fails to teach an identifier receiving unit receiving data containing a care-of address of an IPv6 terminal device and the fixed identifier indicating the IPv6 terminal device;

an identifier storage unit storing the care-of address and the fixed identifier that have been received by the identifier receiving unit by relating to the care-of address and the fixed identifier each other;

a care-of address acquisition unit acquiring the care-of address corresponding to a destination address of the received IPv4 packet from the storage unit and from the identifier storage unit,

with the care-of address acquired by the care-of address acquisition unit being set as a destination address, and

the IPv6 packet, which is translated by the packet by the packet translating unit, contains the fixed identifier related with the care-of address stored by the identifier storage unit.

Asano et al. illustrates a case wherein the identifier receiving unit (read as home agent (Fig.2 @ 20)) receiving data containing a care-of address of an IPv6 terminal device and the fixed identifier (read as home address) indicating the IPv6 terminal device ("Mobile IPv6 ... has two IP addresses as shown in FIG. 2: home address and care-of address.", paragraph [0008], Lines 1-3 and [0015]);

an identifier storage unit (read as a home agent) storing the care-of address and the fixed identifier (read as a home address) that have been received by the identifier receiving unit by relating to the care-of address and the fixed identifier (read as a home address) each other (the home agent incorporates a "storage section to memorize an address management table, which defines the relationship between the home address and care-of address.", [0008] Lines 6-8);

a care-of address acquisition unit (read as home agent (Fig.2 @ 20)) acquiring the care-of address corresponding to a destination address of the received IPv4 packet from the storage unit and from the identifier storage unit, with the care-of address acquired by the care-of address acquisition unit being set as a destination address, and

with the fixed identifier related with the care-of address stored by the identifier storage unit and the IPv6 packet (Fig.1 @ 4, 5, 6), which is translated by the packet by the packet translating unit (Fig.1 @ 40), contains the fixed identifier related with the care-of address stored by the identifier storage unit. ("If the Mobile IPv6 terminal 10 moves subsequently (S50), the home agent registers the invariable home address 22 and a new care-of address 23, which results from a move, in the address management

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table, and sends an acknowledgment packet back to the Mobile IPv6 terminal 10(S70)", paragraph [0013] Lines 11-14)

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the home agent of Asano et al. in with the translator of Hamamoto et al. for the purpose of coupling two distinct networks having different addressing architectures. The motivation being to efficiently exchange a data communication path and couple an IPv4 terminal to intercommunicate to a Mobile IPv6 terminal and vice versa.

Regarding **claim 5**, and **as applied to claim 3 above**, Asano et al., as modified by Hamamoto et al., teach a packet translation device (Fig.1 @40) wherein the fixed identifier is a home address of the IPv6 terminal device ("Mobile IPv6 ... has two IP addresses as shown in FIG. 2: home address and care-of address.", paragraph [0008], Lines 1-3 and [0015]).

Regarding **claim 6**, and **as applied to claim 3 above**, Hamamoto et al., as modified by Asano et al., further teach a packet translation device (inherently taught by Ipv6/Ipv4 translator (Fig.1 @ 55) and Column 6 Line 5-6),

wherein the storage unit further stores a port number by relating the port number, the address and the fixed identifier each other (Column 13 Lines 48-63), and

wherein the reading unit reads the IPv4 address and the source port number stored on the storage unit and related to the fixed identifier extracted by the extraction unit (Column 6 Lines 22-27)

Regarding **claim 7**, and **as applied to claim 6 above**, Hamamoto et al. teach a packet translation device (read as Ipv6/Ipv4 translator (Fig.1 @ 55) and Column 6 Line 5-6).

However, Hamamoto et al. fails to teach wherein the care-of address acquisition unit acquires, from the storage unit and the identifier storage unit, a care-of address corresponding to the destination address and the destination port number of the IPv4 packet received.

Asano et al. teach a case where the care-of address acquisition unit (taught by home agent 20 (Fig.2)) acquires, from the storage unit and the identifier storage unit (read as address management table [0016]), a care-of address corresponding to the destination address and the destination port number of the IPv4 packet received ([0015]-[0016]). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have a Mobile Ipv6 terminal to send notice of a care of address via a home agent as shown by Asano et al. in the translator of Hamamoto et al. for the purpose of coupling two distinct networks having different addressing architectures. The motivation being to

Regarding **claims 8 and 9**, Hamamoto et al. teach a packet translation device, interposed between an IPv6 (Internet Protocol version 6) network and an IPv4 (Internet Protocol version 4) network, for mutually translating an IPv4 packet and an IPv6 packet (inherently taught by Ipv6/Ipv4 translator (Fig.1 @ 55) and Column 6 Lines 5-6), comprising:

an extraction unit extracting, from the IPv6 packet, a fixed identifier indicating a transmission source of the IPv6 packet ("The header translation unit 33, upon receiving the packet, extracts the IPv6 address, which is the source IP address, included in the packet, and searches for an IPv4 address which has previously corresponded to the extracted IPv6 address ...", Column 8 Lines 3-7);

a storage unit (read as an address translation information table (Fig. 2 @ 35)) storing the fixed identifier and an IPv4 address assigned to the transmission source by relating the fixed identifier and an IPv4 address each other (Fig.2 @ 35 is used to store "... address translation information", Column 6, Line 25);

a reading unit (read as IPv4/v6 reception processing unit (Fig.2 @ 31)) reading the IPv4 address stored on the storage unit (read as an address translation information table (Fig. 2 @ 35)) and related to the fixed identifier extracted by the extraction unit (Fig.2 @ 35 is used to store "... address translation information", Column 6, Line 25);

and a packet translating unit (Fig.1 @ 55) translating the IPv6 packet into the IPv4 packet with the IPv4 address read by the reading unit being set as a source address ("a header translation unit 33 for translating the header of a packet fetched by the IPv4/v6 reception processing unit 31 based on address translation information stored in an address translation information table 35 and for updating the contents of the address translation information table 35 as required", Column 6 Lines 22-27);

wherein the packet translating unit (read as translator (Fig.1 @ 55)) translates the IPv4 packet into an IPv6 packet ("the header translation unit 33 sets an IPv4-mapped-IPv6 address "::ffff:133.144.95.22" of the IPv4 host 53 as the source IP

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address and the previously extracted IPv6 address "::1234:5678:9abc" as the destination IP address in the packet.", Column 11 Lines 31-35).

However, Hamamoto et al. fails to teach an identifier receiving unit receiving data containing a care-of address of an IPv6 terminal device and the fixed identifier indicating the IPv6 terminal device;

an identifier storage unit storing the care-of address and the fixed identifier that have been received by the identifier receiving unit by relating to the care-of address and the fixed identifier to each other;

a care-of address acquisition unit acquiring the care-of address corresponding to a destination address of the received IPv4 packet from the storage unit and from the identifier storage unit,

with the care-of address acquired by the care-of address acquisition unit being set as a destination address, and the IPv6 packet which is translated by the packet translating unit contains the fixed identifier related with the care-of address stored by the identifier storage unit;

an IPv6 terminal device transmitting, to a home agent set in the device itself, a registration message containing a care-of address and a home address that are assigned to the device itself;

and a home agent forwarding, upon receiving the registration message from the IPv6 terminal device, the received registration message to the packet translation device.

Asano et al. illustrates a case wherein the identifier receiving unit (read as home agent (Fig.2 @ 20)) receiving data containing a care-of address of an IPv6 terminal

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device and the fixed identifier (read as home address) indicating the IPv6 terminal device ("Mobile IPv6 ... has two IP addresses as shown in FIG. 2: home address and care-of address.", paragraph [0008], Lines 1-3 and [0015]);

an identifier storage unit (read as a home agent) storing the care-of address and the fixed identifier (read as a home address) that have been received by the identifier receiving unit by relating to the care-of address and the fixed identifier (read as a home address) each other (the home agent incorporates a "storage section to memorize an address management table, which defines the relationship between the home address and care-of address.", [0008] Lines 6-8);

a care-of address acquisition unit (read as home agent (Fig.2 @ 20)) acquiring the care-of address corresponding to a destination address of the received IPv4 packet from the storage unit and from the identifier storage unit, with the care-of address acquired by the care-of address acquisition unit being set as a destination address, and

with the fixed identifier related with the care-of address stored by the identifier storage unit and the IPv6 packet (Fig.1 @ 4, 5, 6) which is translated by the packet translating unit (Fig.1 @ 40) contains the fixed identifier (read as a home address) related with the care-of address stored by the identifier storage unit ("If the Mobile IPv6 terminal 10 moves subsequently (S50), the home agent registers the invariable home address 22 and a new care-of address 23, which results from a move, in the address management table, and sends an acknowledgment packet back to the Mobile IPv6 terminal 10(S70)", paragraph [0013] Lines 11-14);

an IPv6 terminal device transmitting, to a home agent set in the device itself, a registration message containing a care-of address and a home address that are assigned to the device itself (“... the Mobile IPv6 terminal 10 is turned ON and started up, it notifies a home agent 20 of its home address and care-of address (S10 -> S20).”, paragraph [0013], Lines 3-5); and

a home agent forwarding, upon receiving the registration message from the IPv6 terminal device, the received registration message to the packet translation device (The home agent replies back with an ACK message to the Mobile IPv6 terminal and then Mobile IPv6 terminal forwards this message onto IPv4/IPv6 translation apparatus (Fig.15 @ 40)).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the home agent of Asano et al. in with the translator of Hamamoto et al. for the purpose of coupling two distinct networks having different addressing architectures. The motivation being to efficiently exchange a data communication path and couple an IPv4 terminal to intercommunicate to a Mobile IPv6 terminal and vice versa.

### ***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments filed on March 3, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Applicant argues, see Page 8 fifth paragraph Lines 3-6 states “provides an advantage that breaking of a connection can be prevented through changing of care-of address of mobile node occurs and forwarding time and resources of the packet can be reduced.”, with respect to claims 1, 3, 8, and 9. The examiner respectfully disagrees since in response to applicant's argument that the references fail



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to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., "...breaking of a connection can be prevented... and forwarding time and resources of the packet can be reduced.") are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

### **Conclusion**

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to (571) 273-8300 or mailed to:**

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or early communications from the Examiner should be directed to Salvador E. Rivas whose telephone number is (571) 270-1784. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Chirag G. Shah can be reached on (571) 272- 3144. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

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*Salvador E. Rivas*  
S.E.R./ser

May 9, 2008

/Chirag G Shah/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2619